



News from Congressman **Tom Lantos**

12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco

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RESERVES AND NATIONAL GUARD LEADERS LEND STRONG SUPPORT TO LANTOS BILL TO FILL MILITARY "PAY GAP"

***Lantos Wins Key Endorsements as Bill Moves
Forward***

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today welcomed the official endorsement by the National Guard Association of the United States and the Reserve Officers Association of his legislation to substantially reduce the discrepancy in pay between civilian and military salaries for Reservists and National Guard when they are involuntarily activated for more than thirty days.

In a letter to Congressman Lantos, retired Major General Richard C. Alexander, President of the National Guard Association of the United States, wrote:

On behalf of the men and women of the National Guard Association of the United States, I would like to commend you for your efforts in introducing the 'Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003'... Your legislation will help mitigate financial loss by making up the difference between a person's civilian and military salaries... As always, NGAUS [National Guard Association of the United States] stands ready to assist you and looks forward to our continued relationship ensuring a strong a viable National Guard.

Jayson L. Spiegel, Executive Director for the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, voiced his organization's support in a separate letter addressed to Congressman Lantos:

On behalf of the nearly 80,000 members of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States,... I want to thank you for your efforts in introducing the 'Equity for Reservists Pay Act of 2003'... Your bill provides a range of solutions to the problem that has long plagued reservists and by extension the Total Force, and ultimately the nation. We are pleased at your vision in introducing it and we stand ready to assist in any way we can.

"The Equity for Reservists Pay Act" (H.R. 1345), a bipartisan bill introduced by Congressman Lantos on March 19, 2003), would require the Federal Government to pay its civilian employees serving in the Reserves at their civilian government salary rate during their deployment. The bill also provides strong

incentives for state and local governments to do the same, and creates a tax credit for to encourage private firms to continue paying their Reservist employees.

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